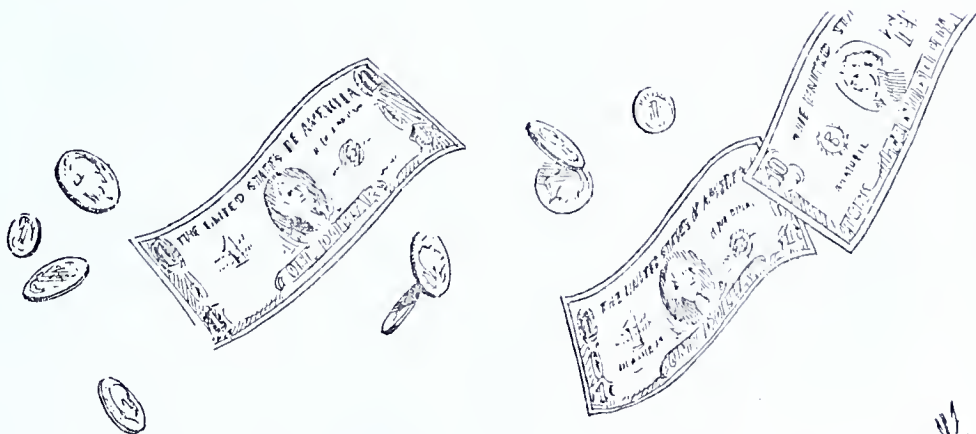


# BIENNIAL REPORT

of the

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

A summary covering the  
period from July 1, 1964,  
through June 30, 1966.





# Game Harvest

Game taken by Pennsylvania hunters in the two-season period reflects steady improvement in the quality of hunting available in Pennsylvania. In the 1965 season, Pennsylvania hunters took a record number of white-tailed bucks—65,150.

<i>Species</i>	<i>1965*</i>	<i>1964*</i>
Deer, Legal Antlered .....	65,150	49,231
Deer, Legal Antlerless .....	34,638	41,903
Total Deer .....	99,788	91,134
Bears .....	347	526
Rabbits .....	916,817	785,706
Hares (Snowshoes) .....	1,759	1,729
Hungarian Partridges .....	(Closed)	(Closed)
Squirrels .....	528,740	475,084
Raccoons .....	134,405	136,990
Wild Turkeys .....	15,282	13,679
Ruffed Grouse .....	93,652	75,216
Ring-necked Pheasants .....	423,004	445,130
Quail .....	14,002	14,707
Woodcocks .....	19,466	19,920
Rails, Gallinules and Coots .....	6,264	6,084
Grackles (Blackbirds) .....	—	—
Wild Waterfowl .....	60,773	55,497
Woodchucks .....	334,491	333,050
Doves .....	138,338	119,185
Total Number .....	2,787,128	2,573,637

\* Small Game, based on Field Officers' estimates.

Big Game, based on individual reports by hunters.

**STEADY IMPROVEMENT** in the quality of hunting available in Pennsylvania is reflected in the figures of estimated game harvested. In 1965 hunters took a record number of 99,788 deer from Penn's Woods.

PGC Photo by Steve







PGC Photo by Keith Hinman

NO OTHER STATE can match Pennsylvania in the variety and abundance of game available. The excellent wildlife management program leads to stronger support by hunters, which, in turn leads to improved programs and an excellent cycle for all.

## The Fiscal Picture

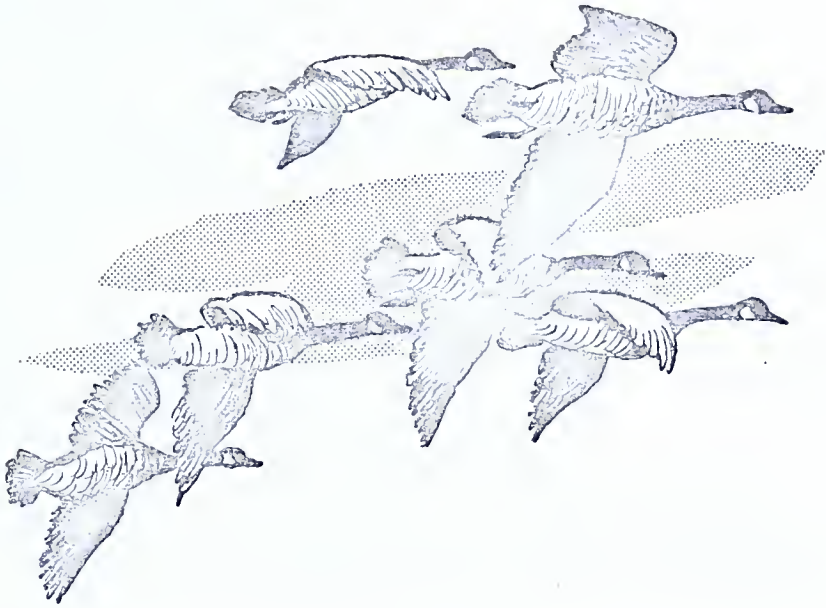
The Commission's fiscal position, aided by a revenue increase of nearly \$3 million in the period, was solidified. Every program in the Commission's basic organization showed stronger activity during the biennium.

	1964-66	1962-64
Cash on Hand—Beginning of Period .....	\$ 3,559,335.52	\$ 2,975,406.28
Receipts During Period .....	15,198,911.43	12,465,656.00
Total Cash Available .....	\$18,758,246.95	\$15,441,062.28
Expenditures During Period .....	13,455,875.05	11,881,726.76
Cash on Hand—End of Period .....	\$ 5,302,371.90	\$ 3,559,335.52
Detailed Expenditures:		
Land Management .....	\$ 5,772,275.03	\$ 4,891,501.88
Law Enforcement .....	2,976,721.37	2,689,512.62
Propagation .....	1,826,102.36	1,898,719.54
Administration .....	682,390.13	626,867.06
Other (a) .....	2,198,386.16	1,775,125.66
	<u>\$13,455,875.05</u>	<u>\$11,881,726.76</u>
(a) Research, Training School, Employee Benefits.		
	6-30-66	6-30-64
Capital Assets .....	\$ 9,963,207.25	\$ 9,235,440.63

## Deer Records Program

The Deer Records Program, established by the Commission during this biennium was an immediate success. More than 1,300 racks were presented for measurement under Boone & Crockett Club rules. The program will build a valuable body of interest in the state as a big game hunting area.





## Research

Several important studies continued, with the aim of finding ways to improve wildlife management and establishing species in new areas. The study will also aid the Commission in improving food and cover for wildlife and contribute to more wildlife per dollar invested by hunters, through the Commission.

- Spring gobbler season prospects are brighter as a result of the wild turkey study that continues throughout the state.
- A habitat development study is contributing valuable data about techniques for improving wildlife food and cover.
- The ring-necked pheasant study has produced a statewide management plan for this species.
- Intensive study on the cottontail rabbit continues.
- Along with basic studies on deer breeding and harvest, the deer study food segment promises a basis for range manipulation that will produce greater quantities of browse.

## License Sales Swing Upward

Both resident and nonresident license sales were up in the second season of the biennium.

	1964	1965
Resident licenses .....	868,972	899,301
Nonresident licenses .....	47,380	54,364
Nonresident licenses for shooting grounds .....	2,696	2,796
Archery licenses .....	68,806	77,485
Antlerless deer licenses .....	274,799	261,283





# The Land Story

At the end of this period, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has purchased 1,018,979 acres of land for use by hunters and other Commonwealth citizens. Consisting of 230 units scattered across the state, this land has been acquired over the years at an average cost of \$7.33 an acre.

Other interesting statistics related to land management and development during the period:

- The food and cover corps cleared 500 acres, planted 6,570 acres in grasses, grain and legumes and planted 1,440 acres in cover crops.
- Sale of forest products, including better than 6 million board feet of sawlogs, netted \$264,517 in revenue.
- Cover-developing cuttings were made on 9,404 acres.
- 2,064,200 shrubs and 767,300 evergreens were planted on game lands; 10,335,260 seedlings were distributed by the Howard Nursery.
- Addition of 200,360 acres to the cooperative farm game program raised the total acreage under this program to 1,561,149 acres—13,494 farms.
- Federal Wildlife Restoration funds totaling \$1,266,083 were spent on habitat improvement.
- Project 70 acquisitions amounting to 25,094 acres in 15 counties were approved for purchase during the period.
- Total land under Commission management, including land owned by the Commission, private lands, refuges in State Forests and all other public lands, increased from 2,415,150 acres to 5,573,230 acres.
- Royalties from natural gas and other income from oil and gas operations on Commission land totaled \$165,794 for the period. Royalties from coal stripping were \$23,927; fire clay lease income added \$985.

**BUFFED GROUSE AND SQUIRRELS** are in such abundance in Pennsylvania that the Commission declared an eight-week season on both species in 1966. In fact, squirrels are so numerous in some urban areas that they are a nuisance, and Commission has removed protection on them.

*Left photo by G. H. Harrison, right photo by Bob Parlamen*





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## Propagation

Six game farms continued to produce several wildlife species for in-season stocking and for creating and building wildlife populations in suitable counties throughout Pennsylvania. The Commission continued to expand the range of several species into new habitats with experimental stockings. Game reared or trapped and released included 532,000 pheasants, 79,000 cottontail rabbits, 22,000 mallards, 20,000 bobwhite quail, 10,500 wild turkeys and 700 Canada geese.



PGC Photo by Steve L.

**MORE THAN 10,000 WILD TURKEYS** were released in the state during the ten-year period. Recent Game Commission studies show that Pennsylvania now harvests more wild turkeys than any other state.

## *Miscellaneous*

### Costs and Revenues

The Commission also received funds from many incidental operations during the period and paid claims from wildlife damage cases. The sale of deer hunting permits for dog training, fur dealing, falconry, propagation, etc., the sale of furs and firearms contributed \$81,325,000 to the Commission treasury. Paid for bounty, bear damage claims and deer-proof fence construction was a total of \$238,695,000 in the same time period.

The cessation of all bounty payments at the end of this period means approximately \$200,000 more annually will now be available for wildlife conservation and management programs—more hunting for more people.



## Hunting Accidents

During this period, there were 47 fatal accidents and 904 nonfatal accidents. This rate was one fatal accident for every 38,959 hunters—the 42-year average for Pennsylvania is one fatal for each 22,022 hunters. About 40 percent of the fatal accidents in this recorded period were self-inflicted.

## Game Law Amendments

Special significant Game Law amendments were made by the Legislature:

- Act 211 amended to permit special retriever dog training areas.
  - Act 208 amended to provide for tagging of wild turkeys when bagged.
- A number of other minor changes were made in the Game Laws.

## Prosecutions

In these two seasons, Commission officers made 13,964 prosecutions in enforcing the Game Laws. These prosecutions resulted in payment of \$431,633 in penalties by violators.

**PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE ANIMAL**, the white-tailed deer, is probably the most hunted game species in the Commonwealth. Our deer herd management program shows that long-range planning pays off.

*Photo by Leonard Lee Rue, III*





# Hunter Safety

As of June 30, 1966, the Pennsylvania Hunter Safety program had qualified 1,826 instructors and trained 31,239 young students in the safe handling and use of firearms. The state program won a first place award for this program from the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

## Training

The 12th student class of Game Protectors was graduated from the training school and 78 Deputies took short training courses. The school also handles training and conservation classes for other organizations, including youth training groups.

## Game News Growth

The Pennsylvania GAME NEWS continued to add readers at a steady pace, building its circulation to 168,000. The magazine is, by far, the most widely circulated state conservation publication in existence. More than 23,000 copies go to other states and countries.

Respectfully submitted,

Loring H. Cramer, President  
Russell M. Lucas, Vice-President  
R. G. Smith, Secretary  
Nicholas Biddle  
H. L. Buchanan  
J. A. Thompson  
Frederick M. Simpson  
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